Review Committee is that, as in the past, the Padma Awards may continue to be given every year on the Republic Day. However, due to lack of adequate time for completing the process of selection of persons for the awards, it may not be possible to make the next announcement of the awards on the coming Republic Day.

(c) and (d) The criteria/guidelines for awarding 'Bhart Ratna' 'Padma Vabhushan' 'Padma Bhushan' and 'Padma Shri' are contained in Regulation 5 of the following Notifications issued by the office of the Secretary to the President: (1) No. 1—Pres/55 dated 8th January, 1955, (2) No. 2—pres/55 dated 8th January, 1955, (3) No. 3. Pres/55 dated 8th January, 1955 and (4) No. 4—Pres/55 dated 8th January, 1955. Regulation 5 reads as follows:

(i) In case of Bharat Ratna : "The decoration shall be awarded for exceptional service towards the advancement of Art, Literature and Science, and in recognition of public service of the highest order."

(ii) In case of Padma Vibhushan : "The decoration shall be awarded for exceptional and distinguished service in any field including service rendered by Government servants."

(iii) In case of Padma Bhushan "The decoration shall be awarded for distinguished service of a high order in any field including service rendered by Government servants."

(iv) In case of Padma Shri : "The decoration shall be awarded for distinguished service in any field including service rendered by Government servants."

The High Level Review Committee has not recommended any change in the criteria for the award of Bharat Ratna. However, for the Padma Awards, the Committee has recommended that, in the achievements of the persons to be selected, there has to be an element of public service. It should not be merely an excellence in a particular field, but the criteria have to be 'excellence plus.' One should look for a life-time achievement.

Recommendations for the Padma Awards are invited from the State Goverments/Union Territory Administrations and from the Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India.

American Laws for Checking Child Labour

2751. DR. MOHAN BABU:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the American laws require posting of a child labour inspector to check involvement of child labour in industries whose products are exported to USA; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) No, Sir. There is as yet no Americal law requiring posting of a US child labour inspector in India to check involvement of child labour in respect of Indian exports to USA.

(b) Does not arise.

Quota for Haj 1997

2752. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total Pilgrim quota for Haj 1997;

(b) whether the accommodation for all the pilgrims has already been procured, within 800 metres from Holy Kabah; and

(c) if not, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) The Haj Pilgrim quota for Haj '97 has been fixed at 56,000.